

To: Senate Committee on Rules

From: Stephen L. Cafferata; Wylida B. Cafferata

Subject: Opposition to Senate Bill 1051

Dear Senators Jama, Bonham, Golden, Manning, and Thatcher,

We are opposed to Senate Bill 1051 and urge you to vote against it.

We are small landowners with forest land in Lane, Lincoln, and Benton Counties. Steve is a professional forester with over sixty years of practicing forestry. Wylida is a Master Woodland Manager and helps manage the family forestland. All of our forest land is certified under the American Tree Farm System as meeting the International Standards of Sustainability.

We believe strongly that Oregon needs a professional forester to understand the nuances of forest management of Oregon's forests. In any profession, training and experience are essential to competence. Our superintendents of schools are required to have teaching experience. Our doctors must have medical licenses to practice. Our engineers must be certified to design our bridges. We should demand no less of the forester who creates and implements Oregon forest policy, supervises the multifarious details of forest management, interacts with both federal and other state agencies, and understands how to manage wildfire.

Additionally, we are concerned that SB 1051 transfers the hiring authority from the Board of Forestry to the Governor. We fully understand that the Governor bears a heavy load of responsibilities; she lacks the time as well as the expertise to select the State Forester. Please allow the Board of Forestry members to continue their role of evaluating applicants and selecting the most qualified.

Thank you for your considering our position.

Wylida & Steve Cafferata